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Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

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COYOTE FUR POPULAR
AT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PELT AUCTIONS.
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Washington, D.C.

So many skins of predatory wild animals have been turned in by its official hunters that the U. S. Department of Agriculture has instituted a plan of selling the pelts not required for scientific purposes, at public auction. As a result, a fur business which nets tidy sums for the United States Treasury has been developed as a side line. In the last four months, 1,399 pelts useful for manufacture into furs, muffs, or rugs, have been sold in four sales for \$2,552, the last sale, late in March, yielding \$1,155.55.

The skins disposed of include the following: coyote, bobcat, skunk, badger, opossum, lynx, gray fox, kit fox, raccoon, civet cat, and ring-tailed cat. All of these animals have been killed by employees of the Biological Survey in its various campaigns to rid different sections of the country of animals which are hurtful to live stock, cultivated crops, or timber. As each of the official hunters is trained carefully in handling and preserving the skins of animals, the pelts reach the Department in excellent shape.

The bulk of the skins sold have been coyote, or prairie wolf, pelts resulting from the very active campaigns of extermination against this animal in the cattle-raising districts of the West. Those in charge of the sales report that the coyote pelt is growing in popularity as a fur, and as a result the prices offered for these skins at the auctions have steadily been increasing.

With the increase of the campaign of extermination against the coyote, a large number of coyote skins and other furs are being received by the Department and will be open for purchase at auction within a short time. Moreover, the Department reports, the needs of museums and other scientific institutions for specimens have largely been satisfied, so that practically all skins received at the Department are now put on sale. Notices of these fur sales are sent out about ten days prior to each sale. Dealers and others interested may secure official notice by writing to the Chief of the Supply Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.